

PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Atty Docket No. A01449  
CMJ/sd

In re application of:  
Lifeng Zhang

Serial No: : Group Art Unit: Not yet assigned  
Filed: Herewith : Examiner: Not yet assigned  
For: Method For Improving Viscosity of Thickeners for Aqueous  
Systems

MAIL STOP: PATENT APPLICATION  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND PRIORITY REQUEST**

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is filed along with the filing of a non-provisional patent application transmittal form. This patent application claims the benefit of the earlier filing date of prior filed co-pending provisional application serial number 60/417,854 filed on 10/11/02 under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4).

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

Respectfully submitted,



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Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

--Cross Reference To Related Patent Applications

This is a non-provisional application of prior pending U.S. provisional application serial number 60/417,854 filed October 11, 2002.--